

Wave

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City web site: www.longbeach.gov

City of Long Beach - The Challenge. . .

Maintaining Priority Services While Eliminating The Deficit

While many other cities continue to grapple with growing budget gaps, in just three short years, the City of Long Beach, through its Financial Strategic Plan, has eliminated \$92 million of the projected \$102 million multi-year deficit. The City is determined to eliminate the remaining \$10 million deficit during next year's budget.

The deficit was reduced through increasing the employee share in retirement and benefit costs, eliminating over 400 City positions, and reducing Workers' Compensation, equipment and other support costs. In addition, some community services have been affected. Reduced recreation supervision at school sites on Sundays and a 20 percent reduction in Library hours are two key community services that have been impacted. Most notably, on-going rolling-closures reduced services at most branch libraries from five to four days per week and reduced services at the Main and North branch libraries from six to five days per week this year.

*For more information
on the City's budget,
visit www.longbeach.gov
or call 570-6425.*

While some services have been reduced, investments in priority services, as defined by residents, business owners and the City Council, were made in Fiscal Year 2006. As a first step toward needed increases in the Police Department's capacity, 15 new patrol officers were added. Police Chief Batts has estimated that 127 to 309 additional officers are needed. Additional resources have also been allocated for street maintenance to provide for needed improvements of City streets.

Given the extensive level of reductions to date and the need to trim another \$10 million to get the budget structurally balanced, potential new revenue options are being explored with the community. Revenue measures may be recommended for consideration by the voters to enhance public safety and/or to restore some important community services such as those reduced at City libraries.

Seeking Public Comment . . .

LNG Project Under Environmental Review

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners is seeking public comment on a draft environmental impact report examining a proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal at the Port of Long Beach.

Sound Energy Solutions (SES), a joint venture of Mitsubishi Corp. and Conoco Phillips, proposes to build and operate a \$450 million shipping facility at the Port of Long Beach to import and distribute LNG. The terminal could supply 10 percent of the state's needs, but security and safety are concerns.

Construction cannot begin, however, without the approval of local, state and federal authorities, and only after a thorough review of economic and environmental issues.

The Harbor Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission are jointly circulating the draft Environmental Impact

Report/Environmental Impact Statement for public review and comment. The EIR/EIS is available on-line at www.polb.com and www.ferc.gov, at the Port Administration Building, the City Clerk's office and local libraries.

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IN THE NEWS

UPDATE

Airport Terminal Area Improvements Project

The City is currently finalizing the Airport Terminal Area Improvements Project Draft EIR and will soon be releasing it for public review. It is anticipated that the Draft EIR will be available for public comment in early November. The Draft EIR will be made available for review at www.longbeach.gov, at the City's Main Library, and other locations.



Per EIR guidelines, the public comment period will last 45 days. The City will conduct a public information and comment session on the Draft EIR on Saturday, December 3, 2005, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The information session will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 333 W. Ocean Blvd. Validated parking will be provided.

Prepare for Winter NOW!

The Long Beach Gas and Oil Department (LBGO) encourages its natural gas customers to schedule furnace pilot re-lighting services NOW. Customers can save time and money, and avoid inconvenience, by scheduling pilot re-lighting services before the cold season begins. Residents and businesses that wait until the winter season arrives could experience extended delays for their pilot re-lighting appointments.



Appointments can be made NOW by calling 570.5700, Monday through Friday, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or through the LBGO website at www.lbgo.org. An adult, 18 years or older, must be present for the appointment to provide access to the furnace.

Conserve and Save!

The cost of natural gas is going up across the nation! Tips on how to keep your natural gas bill down by using energy wisely are available at www.lbgo.org.

LNG Project Review ... continued from front page

The public will have opportunities to comment on the documents at four public hearings, which begin at 6:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- November 14, City Hall, 333 W. Ocean Blvd.
- November 15, Jordan High School, 6500 Atlantic Ave.
- November 30, Millikan High School, 2800 Snowden Ave.
- December 1, Cabrillo High School, 2001 Santa Fe Ave.

Comments will be accepted on or before December 8, 2005, and written comments are encouraged. Copies of written comments should be sent to both the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426; and Port of Long Beach Planning Division, 925 Harbor Plaza, Long Beach, CA 90802. For more information, call the Port at 590.4160.

Beach Cleanup

The Long Beach Water Department has adopted the beach at Bluff Park (between Redondo and Junipero, along Ocean Blvd.) and is committed to doing its part to make a *Beautiful Long Beach*. Please join the next cleanup day on Saturday, December 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. For more information about this event, please call 570.2311 or visit www.lbwater.org. *Keep the bottle off the beach - Recycle!*



Living with Coyotes

Long Beach is the home for many wild animals, including coyotes. Although coyotes are naturally afraid of humans, they may become a nuisance and attack pets. The City is urging residents to protect their children and pets by taking the following steps: do not feed coyotes or feral cats; feed your pets indoors or remove outdoor dishes when pets are finished; keep dogs on leash and small animals inside; avoid parks and rivers at dusk and dawn; and clear brush from property. Report wildlife threats and attacks to: State Department of Fish and Game at 342.7100; Health Department Animal Control Division at 570.7387; or, when in parks, Park Rangers at 570.1765. For more information on coyotes visit www.keepmewild.com.



Mark Your Calendar . . .

MAKE TREECYCLING A TRADITION

FREE DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

December 26, 2005 to January 8, 2006
Drop off holiday trees Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at one of the listed locations:

FREE PICK-UP • Saturday, January 7, 2006

CSULB Recycling Center 5800 Atherton Blvd. East of Bellflower Blvd.	Bixby Park 1st St. at Cherry Ave.
North Police Substation 4891 N. Atlantic Ave. at Del Amo Blvd. Enter on 46th St.	Cesar E. Chavez Park Golden Shore St. at 4th St.
Fire Station #14 5200 Eliot St. at Colorado Ave.	Houghton Park Myrtle Ave. at Harding St.
City Operations Center Environmental Services Bureau 2929 E. Willow St.	Hudson Park Hill St. at Webster Ave.
	Stearns Park Corner of 23rd St. & Roycroft Ave.
	Veterans Park 28th St. at Pine Ave.
	Wardlow Park Monlaco Rd. at Rutgers Ave.

City refuse customers can put holiday trees out where trash is normally collected by 7 a.m. on January 7, and it will be recycled. **All decorations and stands MUST be removed. Trees over 12' tall should be cut in half.**

www.longbeach-recycles.org